Mineral wealth as a national asset

2757. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have taken the position that the iron ore of the State can be utilized only if the steel plant is established in their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to adopt a policy of ensuring that the mineral wealth should be considered as a national asset; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Customs duty on shipbreaking

2758. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government levy the customs duty on shipbreaking industry;

(b) if so, the amount collected on this account during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering exemption of customs duty for shipbreaking industry; and

(d) if so, the date from which the customs duty would be exempted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a customs duty of 5% on ships for breaking.

(b) Department of Revenue has furnished the year wise details of customs duty collected on ship breaking during the last three years as follows:-

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year	Amount of Customs Duty realized *(Provisional)*
2004-05	269
2005-06	178
2006-07	298

(c) and (d) Presently, no such proposal is under consideration of Department of Revenue.